

Mikkeli's status as a highly sustainable city makes it both rewarding and challenging to devise strategies for urban densification in the Satamalahti area. What kind of landscape, energy and urban design proposals should be implemented to achieve the goals of ecological construction which would exceed the already high standard of the city?

By deploying the concept of embodied energy and exergy we believe that there is room to optimize the performance of the new developments in the Satamalahti area. This proposal develops three strategies which can enhance the ecological and energetic performance of the new development zones through the optimization of the landscape, energy plan and urban design.

1. Relocate + Recycle: Contaminated soil on site

The first move is to retain all contaminated soil on site, distributed between elevated plazas in Zone 1 and an enormous life-giving berm in Zone 3. By doing so, the scheme cuts down significantly on the petroleum and emissions generated by over 3,500 truckloads of soil proposed for relocation off-site. In this way, the preparatory stages of the project embody its broader environmental ambitions, save substantial hauling and disposal costs, reduce contaminations off-site, and give rise to unique urban and landscape conditions along Lake Saimaa.



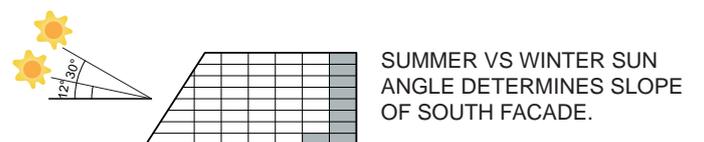
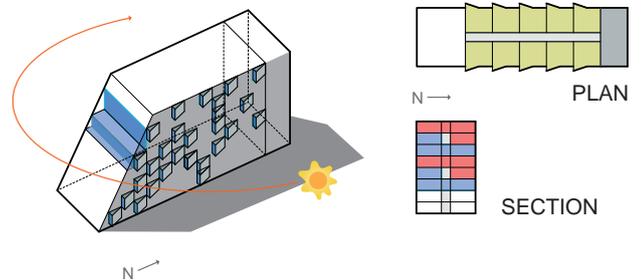
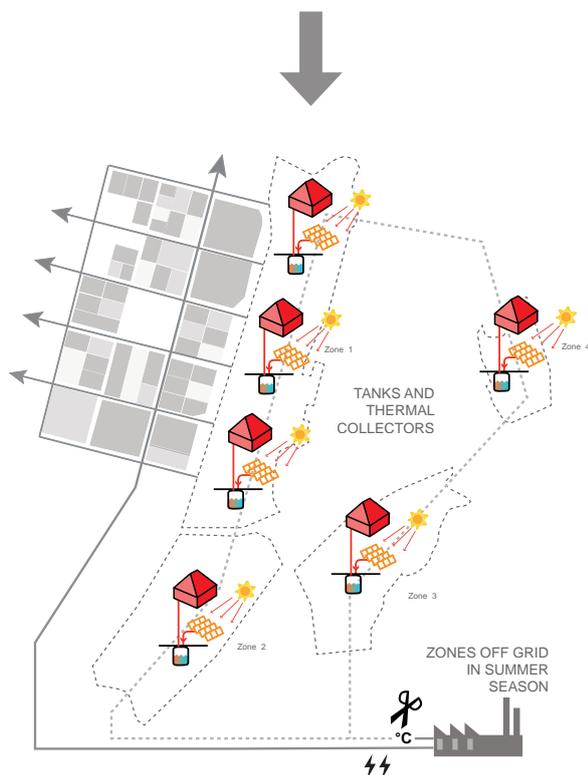
**2. Optimize Power Plant Performance:
Summer solar exposure improves efficiency of CHP plant**

The extremely high solar exposure (long days) and low heating requirements during the summer mean that thermal collectors on individual blocks or buildings combined with local heat storage tanks can fulfil resident needs. This enables each zone to go off the grid for a period of the year reducing transmission loss and improving the power plant efficiency.



2a. Rethinking principles of sustainable architecture for Northern latitudes

The tried and tested principles of sustainable architecture in temperate climates must be rethought for Mikkeli where the average sun angle and solar exposure in winter is extremely low. In contrast to lower latitudes - where minimizing Eastern and Western facades to prevent heat gain is the priority, at higher latitudes and colder climates, it makes sense to maximize heat gain and solar exposure on the facades. This has both psychological and energy benefits. Allowing more daylight into the buildings is positive for the residents while maximizing solar exposure also reduces energy consumption through passive heating. Buildings are reoriented North-South and we propose an interlocking unit configuration within the residential towers. This unit typology reduces the circulation space by 50% and enables all units to have both an East and West façade.

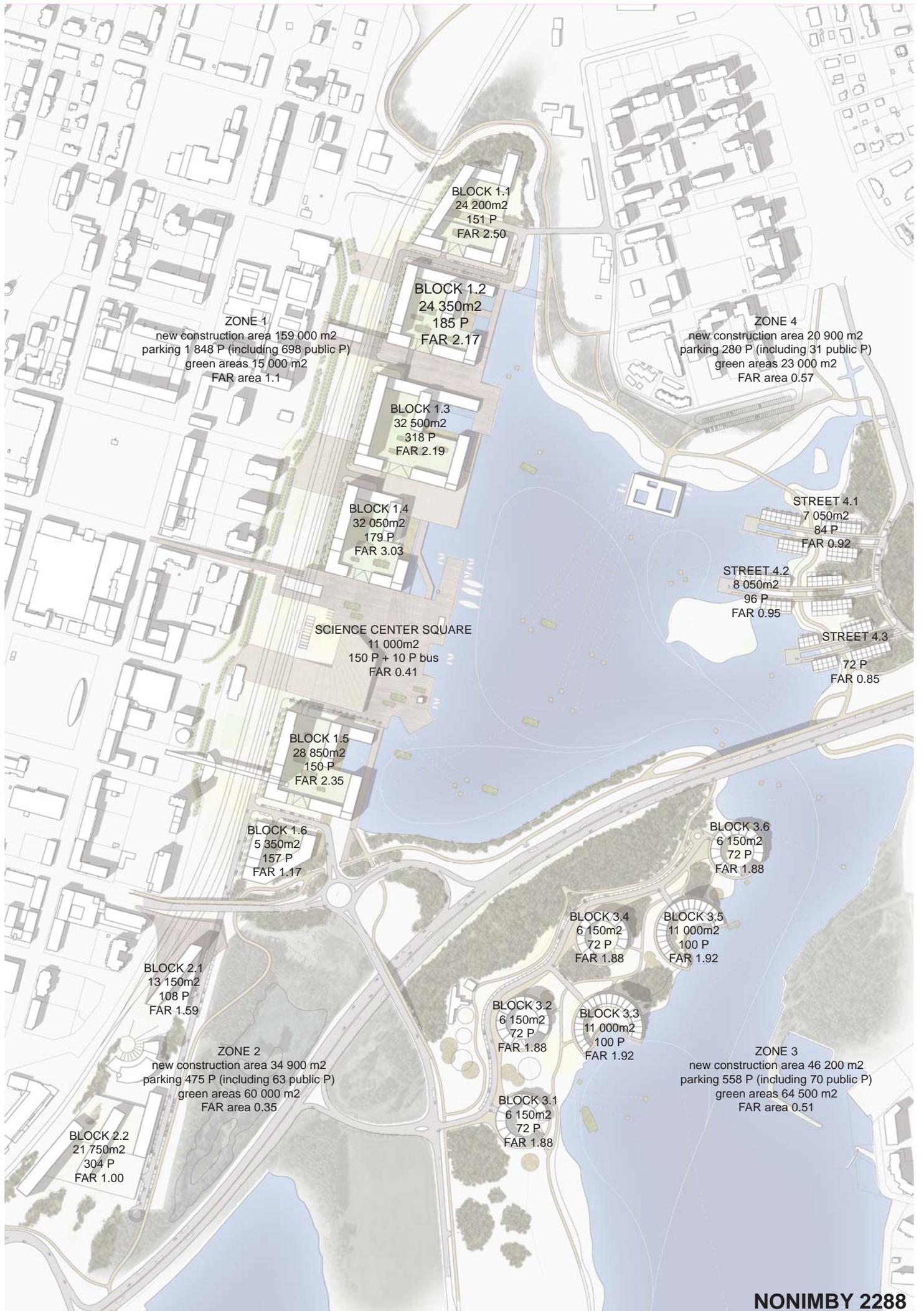




Enhance environmental, social, and functional edges.

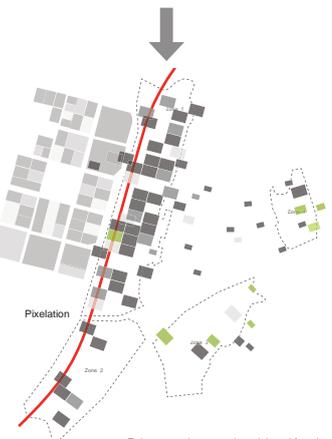
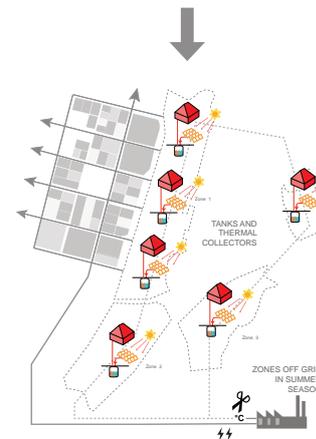
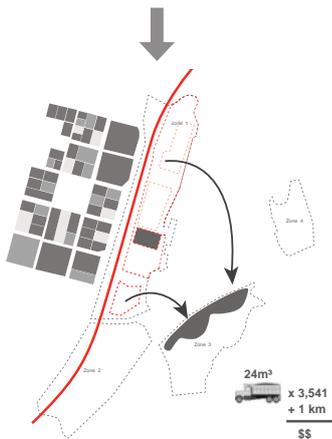
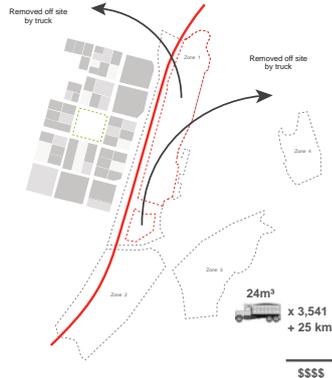
3. Diffuse + Hybridize: Blur definition between separate functions and uses

Traditional urban development to date has distinguished separate zones for buildings, urban fabric, civic spaces, landscapes, and water, thereby inducing environmental degradation and urban homogeneity. The proposed plan breaks down those distinctions—hybridizing urban, landscape, and hydrologic functions and spaces. A pixelated gradient is adopted as a form-giving and operation strategy, thereby creating vibrant new urban-landscape fabrics that breed new life for Mikkeli and Lake Saimaa.





- Legend:
1. Science Center
2. Business Plaza
3. Berm park
4. Sauna



**Relocate + Recycle
Contaminated soil on site**

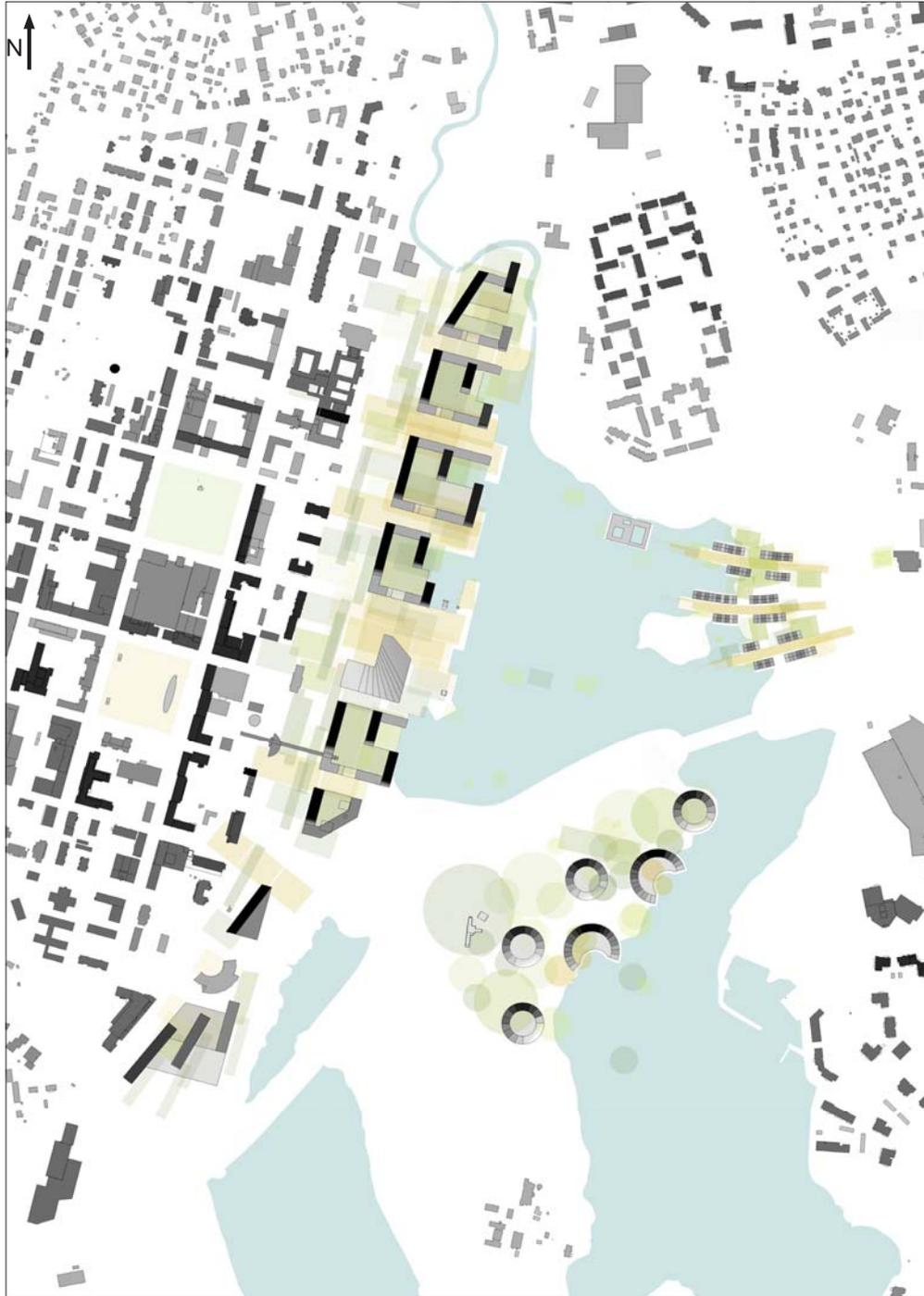
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**Diffuse + Hybridize
Blur definition between separate functions and uses**

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GRANULARITY CONCEPT

The granularity of the new developments is intended to amplify the character of the urban fabric adjacent to each zone with several specific aims:

1. To structure the outdoor areas into clearly delineated public, communal and private spaces.
2. To create legible neighbourhoods with the granularity which are unique to each zone yet which compliment one another.
3. To utilize landscape elements and public spaces as connective elements which binds all the zones and the entire harbour together.

Zone 1

Existing



Proposed



Zone 2

Existing



Proposed



Zone 3

Existing



Proposed



Zone 4

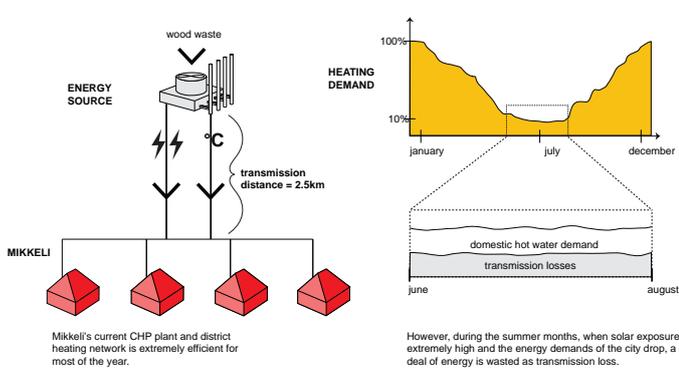
Existing



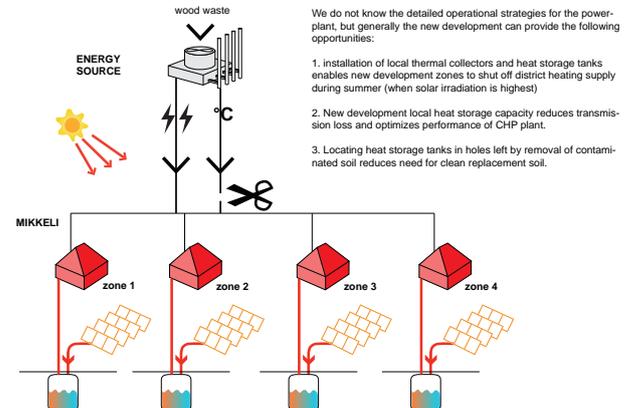
Proposed



Energy Current Annual operation



Energy Proposed Summer operation



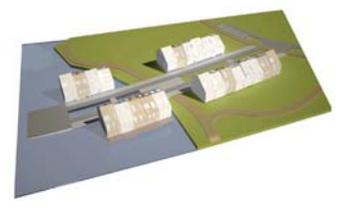
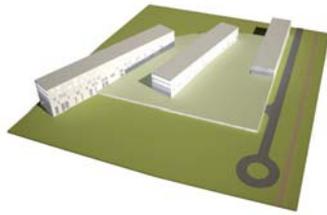
ZONE1

ZONE2

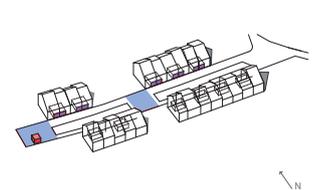
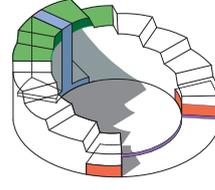
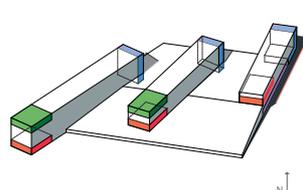
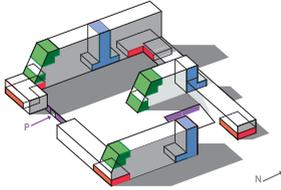
ZONE3

ZONE4

FACADE CONCEPT

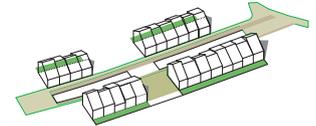
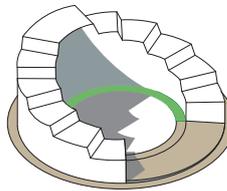
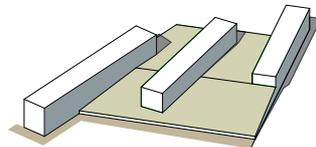
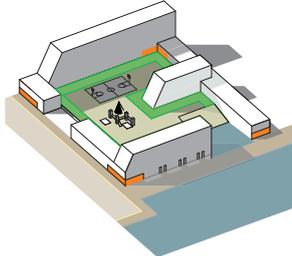


PROGRAM



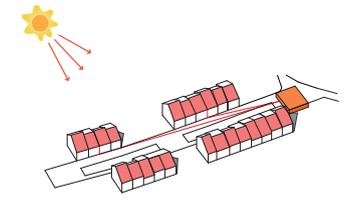
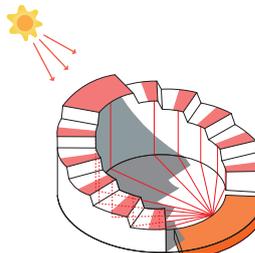
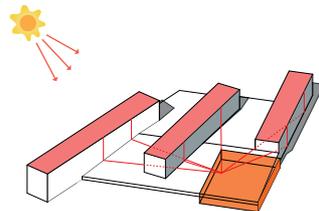
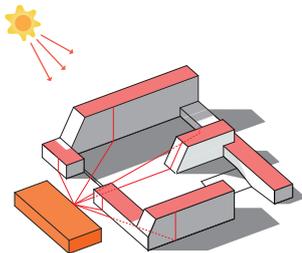
Residential Commercial Communal space Lobbies Parking

PUBLIC / COMMUNAL / PRIVATE SPACES



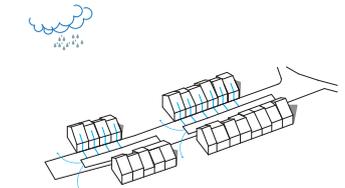
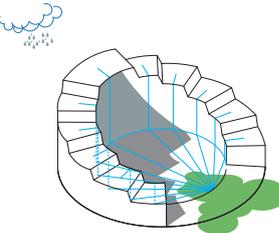
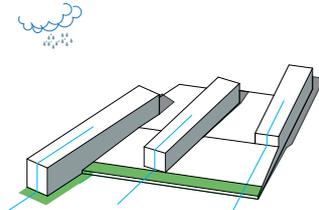
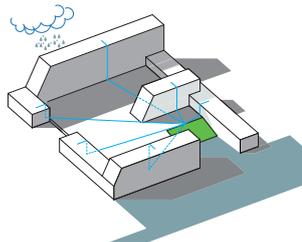
Public facilities Private yards for gr. fl. Communal courtyard Access to water Public boardwalk Plaza

SOLAR BOILERS / HEAT STORAGE TANKS



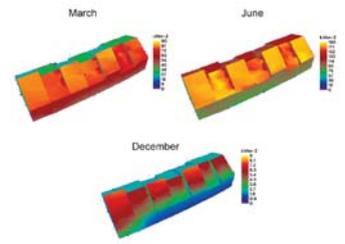
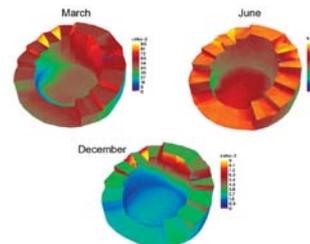
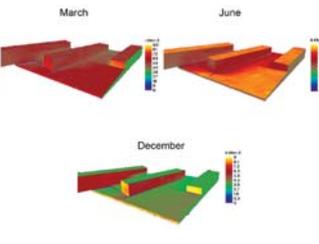
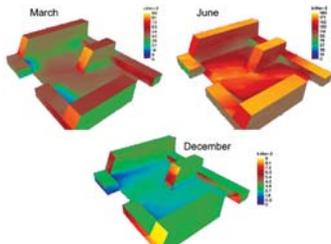
Localized solar water boilers Hot water tanks

STORMWATER / BIOFILTRATION



Stormwater runoff Bioswale infiltration transit

SOLAR ACCESS





MIKKELI HARBOR VIEW



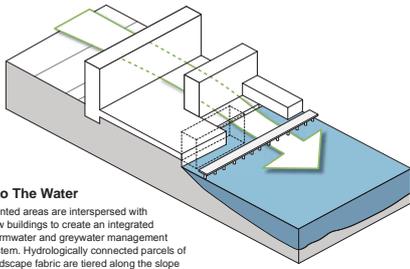
LAKE SAIMAA WINTER VIEW



LAKE SAIMAA ROUTE

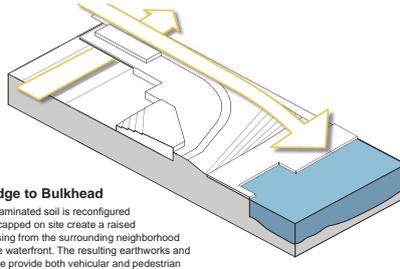
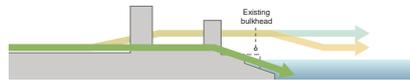
HYBRIDIZING THE EDGE

Landscape and civic space systems



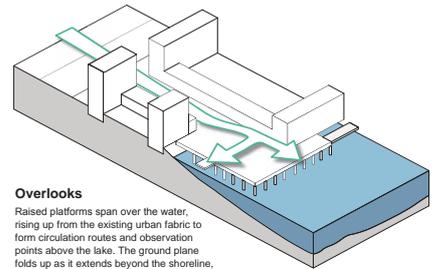
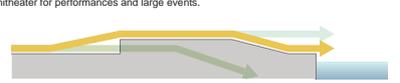
Into The Water

Planted areas are interspersed with new buildings to create an integrated stormwater and greywater management system. Hydrologically connected parcels of landscape fabric are tiered along the slope to the water's edge to collect and treat runoff from streets and buildings before it enters the lake.



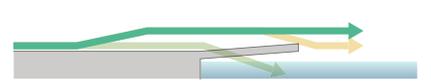
Bridge to Bulkhead

Contaminated soil is reconfigured and capped on site create a raised neighborhood to the waterfront. The resulting earthworks and bridge provide both vehicular and pedestrian access to new development and the lakeside. The ground plane steps down towards the water to end at the existing bulkhead, forming an amphitheater for performances and large events.



Overlooks

Raised platforms span over the water, rising up from the existing urban fabric to form circulation routes and observation points above the lake. The ground plane folds up as it extends beyond the shoreline, providing sweeping views and dynamic public gathering spaces.

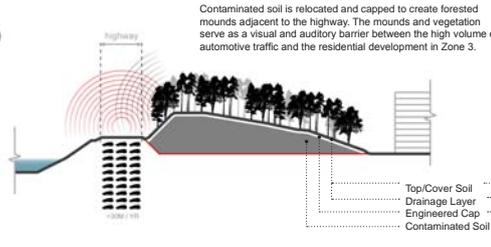


SOIL ECOLOGIES

Repurposing contaminated landscape locally

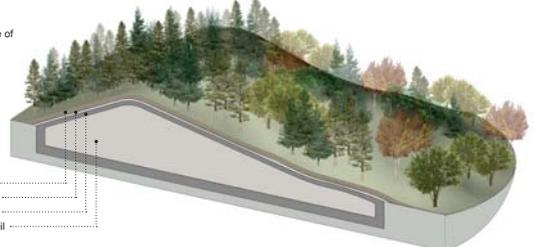


Redistribute and Reuse
Gross Soil Volume: 112,000 m³
Contaminated Soil Volume: 84,000 m³



Contaminated soil is relocated and capped to create forested mounds adjacent to the highway. The mounds and vegetation serve as a visual and auditory barrier between the high volume of automotive traffic and the residential development in Zone 3.

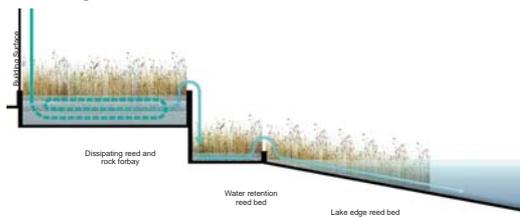
Top/Cover Soil
Drainage Layer
Engineered Cap
Contaminated Soil



WATER ECOLOGIES

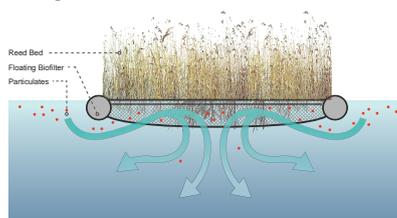
Urban stormwater management and habitat creation

Wetland Edge



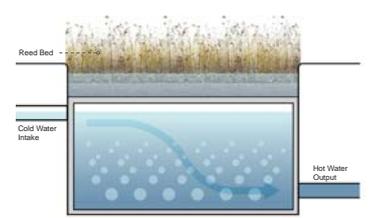
Greywater runoff collects in terraced reed beds, flowing through multiple stages of filtration before joining Lake Saimaa.

Floating Wetland



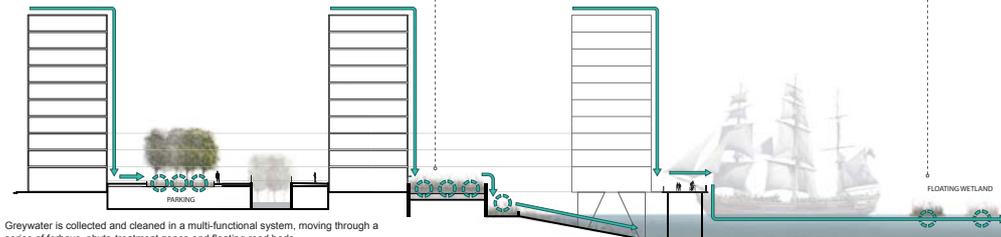
Floating reed beds drift across Lake Saimaa, removing particulate from the water. Beds can be released into the lake or docked for storage.

Waste Treatment Wetland



Abandoned waste treatment tanks are reused to heat and contain district water. Wetland reed beds crown the tanks in Zone 3.

Stormwater System

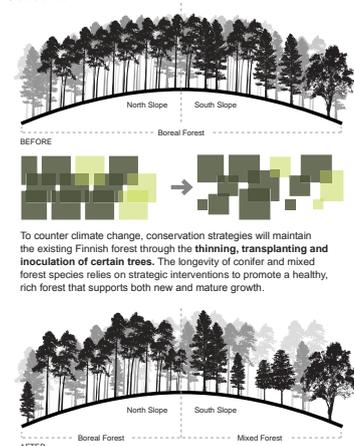


Greywater is collected and cleaned in a multi-functional system, moving through a series of forbays, phyto-treatment zones and floating reed beds

FOREST ECOLOGIES

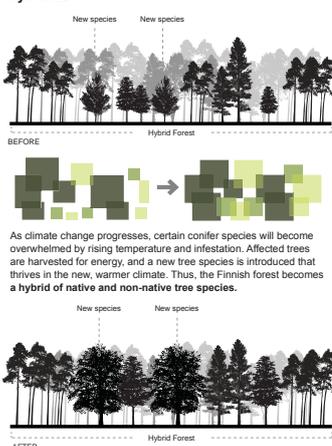
Climate change mitigation strategies

Conserve



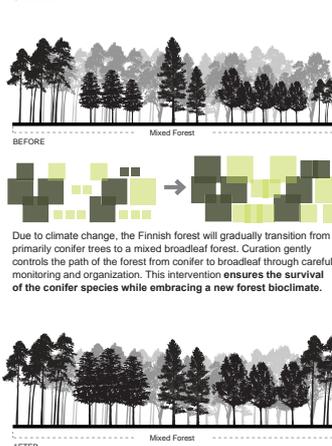
To counter climate change, conservation strategies will maintain the existing Finnish forest through the **thinning, transplanting and inoculation of certain trees**. The longevity of conifer and mixed forest species relies on strategic interventions to promote a healthy, rich forest that supports both new and mature growth.

Hybridize



As climate change progresses, certain conifer species will become overwhelmed by rising temperature and infestation. Affected trees are harvested for energy, and a new tree species is introduced that thrives in the new, warmer climate. Thus, the Finnish forest becomes a **hybrid of native and non-native tree species**.

Curate



Due to climate change, the Finnish forest will gradually transition from primarily conifer trees to a mixed broadleaf forest. Curation gently controls the path of the forest from conifer to broadleaf through careful monitoring and organization. This intervention **ensures the survival of the conifer species while embracing a new forest bioclimate**.

Bioclimates of Finland
Boreal Continental, Taiga
Boreal Subcontinental, Taiga
Temperate Continental, Broadleaf



Climate change will progress bioclimates north

Conifers
Pine, Spruce
New Species
Beech
Broadleaf
Birch